

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

November 2023

(No: 524)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

Wonford is a  The **Methodist** Church

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.or



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A Message From The Minister

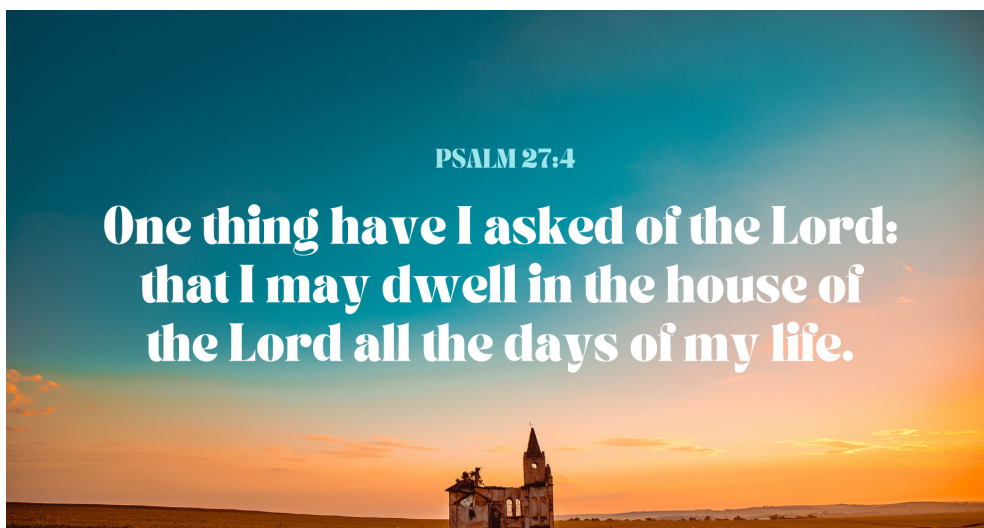
Dear Friends,

Psalm 27

Life is complex and seems to be getting more so. And when life is complex, it becomes more important than ever to remember simple truths. This is because, behind all the fluctuations of world events, there are certain things which remain true, regardless of the world's tumult. The psalmist seems to be in a situation of conflict and is under attack. With that in mind, what does he pray for? Triumph over his enemies? That's what you might expect, but no, he prays for only one thing – that he may 'dwell in the house of the Lord' all the days of his life and to 'gaze on His beauty' and 'seek Him in His temple'. This reminds me of Martha and Mary, the latter being commended by Jesus for sitting at His feet in an attitude of devotion, listening and learning from her Lord. The one thing needful, as Jesus says.

This might seem simplistic and inadequate when times are tough. In fact, it's essential. Worship, devotion and having an open heart towards God are not luxuries for the super spiritual. They are our first calling, the key to our life's purpose and our highest privilege- as well as our bread and butter as Christians. What's more, they fortify us in readiness for the bad times. When we live a life of worship, we know we are never truly alone and grace and strength come to us when we most need it. This has been the testimony of millions. Wait for the Lord. Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

With every blessing
Ben Haslam



Dates For November 2023

Coffee

5th	Eileen & Melanie
12th	Sharilyn & Steve
19th	Janett & Namita
26th	David P & Melanie

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In November they are meeting on the 10th and 24th and are continuing studying the Ten Commandments with a study guide by J John. All are welcome to attend.

Monika

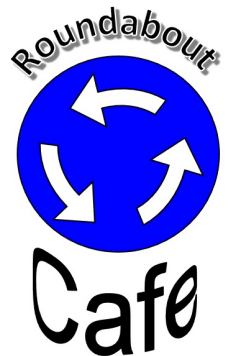
The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 7th November 2023 when there will be a talk on the Exe Estuary with Imogen Salmon

They meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Everyone is welcome.



Wonford Welcome Drop-In - Saturdays (10.30am to 12.00pm)

In November we will be having the following activities for you to join if you would like alongside the free cuppa & cake:

4th November - come along to enjoy a literary morning with storytelling, book swap and quiz

11th November - as a group we will be filling a few shoeboxes to donate to the Blythswood Care campaign and at midday we'll share our first winter community meal together

18th November - we can join in with helping to process the shoeboxes in the hall or have a chat & cuppa in the lounge

25th November - we have our monthly Games Morning with the pool table, table football and a variety of table top games

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday!

Alison, Helen, Lisa, Liz, Mandy, Monika, Paul & Rose and Sue K

Agricultural Chaplain

Did you know that the Methodist Church employs an Agricultural Chaplain to work across our District?

Come and hear Andy Jerrard talk about the ups and downs of life in the Rural Community.

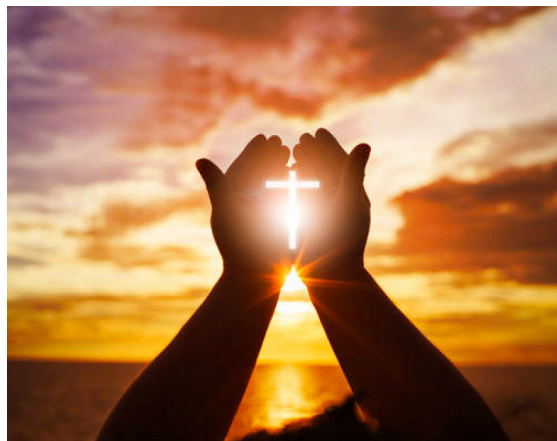
All are welcome at Sidwell Street Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st November 2023 - meeting in the Reed Hall accessed by the side entrance.

Locally all Methodists contribute to this work through the assessment, come and hear what a good use of our money this is!!

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For November this will be the 7th and for December the 12th.

Lisa Thomas



Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal 2023

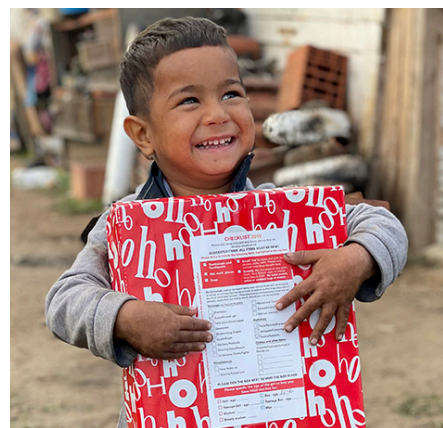
Last November, in our Church Hall, the Exeter Blythswood group processed and sent 1626 shoeboxes from Exeter & East Devon to people living in abject poverty in Ukraine. It is a blessing to think that our boxes brought a little bit of happiness to each of the people opening them in December and discovering the gifts inside! We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine – for safety & shelter, reconciliation & restoration and for peace across their land.

We are collecting boxes through Blythswood Care again this year. Blythswood Care is an established Christian charity based in Glasgow, Scotland. They bring hope to families in Europe, Africa and Asia through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old. Their motto is 'transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul'.

You need to cover a shoebox in wrapping paper with the lid wrapped separately so it can be opened easily and they can be for adults as well as teenagers and children. The categories are Male or Female; Preschool, Primary, Teenager, Adult or Elderly.

Their website www.blythswood.org will provide a full checklist of items that can be put in the shoeboxes and you can print of a label from there, but if you don't have access to a printer then I can give you a leaflet. The donation towards cost of transporting each shoebox is £3. Date for final collection at Wonford Methodist is Sunday 19th November.

Most important items - toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & flannel, hat/ scarf/ gloves, sweets (dated at least March 2024), a small toy and pencils/pens/ paper. Other suggested items for children - a ball, skipping rope, hair accessories, puzzles, stickers. For adults - shampoo, deodorant, comb, sewing equipment, candles (but no



matches), kitchen utensils, screwdriver/pliers, pack of cards, small wind up torch and for teenage girls/woman- sanitary products.

To any of our talented knitters, each year we are most in need of scarves, large hats (we have too many small ones) and mittens or fingerless gloves please, for both children and adults. You might like to add in a Christmas card with a message, your name & town/country but do not put in your address. If you have any questions or you want to donate a few items or money instead of filling a box then please let me know - all contributions are very welcome and will help to put a smile on the faces of people who live in such poverty.

Please do contribute if you can. This shoebox may be the only gift they have ever been given and what a Christmas present for someone truly in need!

Sue Keatt

PS. We really do need empty & unwanted shoeboxes to wrap so if you have any then please bring them in!

Elijah and Elisha Autumn Preaching Series

This continues into November

Nov 12 Elisha succeeds Elijah

Rev Ben Haslam

1 Kings 19. 19-21

2 Kings 2. 13-22 – “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?”

Nov 19 The healing of Naaman

Barbara Easton

2 Kings 5. 1-19 –

“Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel”

Nov 26 The Aramean attack is thwarted

Monika Norohna

2 Kings 6. 8-23 – “Lord, please open his eyes so that he may see...”

EXETER MALE VOICE CHOIR

COME AND SING WITH US!

NEW VENUE: WONFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Burnthouse Lane, Exeter, EX2 6NG. (opposite Lidl's)

There is ample parking on the Church grounds.



No previous experience necessary. No audition. Any age.

We sing a range of modern songs (Coldplay, Oasis, Snow Patrol)

Film themes (James Bond), Pop favourites (Beatles, Elvis)

To raise money for Local Charities : 'FORCE'

Hospiscare, Devon Air Ambulance , Help for Heroes.

Practice nights are Mondays 6.45-9.00 pm

Start date 2nd October (2023)

We can help you to improve your voice. Give it a Go!
Enjoy yourself. Make new friends. Drinks afterwards.
For more details contact Matt on 07860 474392

www.exetermalevoicechoir.org

A T P

A lovely story about Jesus, which was not included in the Gospels, features a dead dog lying in the street. A crowd of angry residents had gathered round this dead animal. “What a filthy animal fouling up our street!” “It’s such an ugly creature!” “This appalling stench makes me sick!” Just three of the comments by these bystanders.

Then Jesus appears on the scene, and kneels down to examine the dead dog. He speaks to the resentful onlookers: “You know, I’ve never seen such beautiful teeth! They’re as beautiful as pearls.” The powerful message from this story is: Accentuate The Positive!

Zacchaeus was a hated tax collector in Jericho. When Jesus visited the packed town, Zacchaeus shinned up that sycamore tree not only because he was a small man and wanted a better view, but also because he was a hated outcast in his own town. But Jesus nonplussed the clamouring crowd by stopping at that sycamore tree, and asking the town’s unlikeliest person, Zacchaeus, if he could have a cup of tea in his house! Through that encounter, the ostracised tax collector became a completely new person, and offered to give half of his possessions to the poor. A. T. P.

Even in bereavement and the loss of someone precious, there is always the positive hope of reunion with the Living Christ. For over two years, I took my wife Sheila every week for chemotherapy at the hospital, and we regularly encouraged each other by saying ‘A T P’ to one another, as we went in the ward. Even when she couldn’t speak, she regularly squeezed my hand; it was her way of declaring her love, and that nothing could take away her faith in her Saviour.

Over the years I have been privileged to take Church groups to Israel, where we pilgrims walked where Jesus walked. For me, the outstanding highlight every time was in the Garden of Resurrection in Jerusalem. Having taken our party into the empty tomb, I then watched hundreds of other Christians from all over the world coming out of that same tomb uplifted, strengthened and inspired. Whatever language they spoke, they were all echoing the same words: “He Is Risen!” One group of Japanese Christians emerged fervently singing, “Because He Lives.” A. T. P.

Or as St Paul would have echoed from his rat-infested prison cell: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life.....nor anything else in all creation has any power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”

Rev Malcolm Carter

Prayer Focus for November 2023

Week Commencing Sunday 5th November

Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Psalms 85:6-7

Give thanks for the Revival Prayer and worship event taking place at Wonford Methodist Church this evening. May our hearts be ready to receive more of you, Jesus.

Week Commencing Sunday 12th November

...revive us, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Psalms 80: 18b-19

Pray for the Blythswood Care volunteers as they use our buildings this month to prepare shoeboxes full of gifts for families in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Week Commencing Sunday 19th November

Lord, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.
Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:2

Pray that each shoebox sent out by Blythswood Care in the coming weeks will be a blessing and will bring comfort and hope to their recipients.

Week Commencing Sunday 26th November

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

Joel 2:28

Pray for all our church events in this coming Christmas season. May we be blessed to be a blessing. Start praying for someone you can invite to one of our services/events next month.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). Your request will then be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need. If the first contact is unavailable, please contact Rose Smith (01404 510853).

After Service Prayer Support

This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

The Prayer Team

Prayer for Israel-Palestine

Loving God
I see the news and I am afraid.
Violence is spiralling out of control.
I don't know what to think or feel.
The temptation to fall into hatred,
or despair feels very close at hand.
Help me to remember that nothing in all creation
can separate me from your love that I know in Jesus.
May your perfect love for me cast out my fear
and free me to discern what is mine to do
amidst the chaos of this suffering world.

Amen

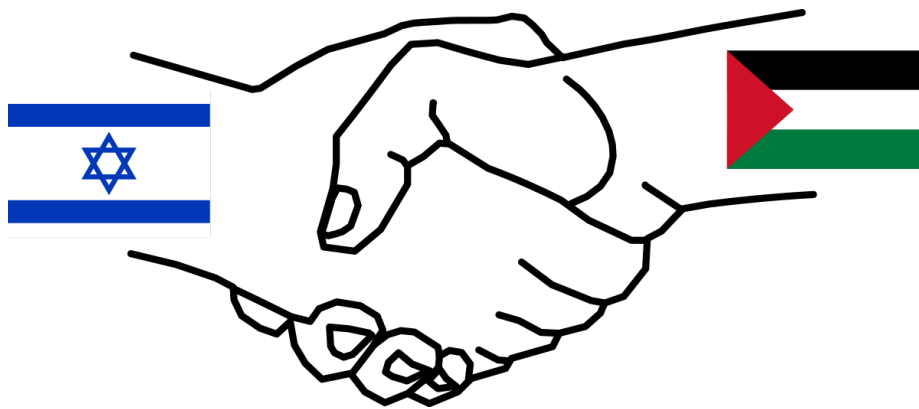
Dates For Your Diary

November 2023

Sat 4th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 5th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship with Ann Skinner
Tue 7th	9.00 a.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Fri 10th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 11th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) *
Sun 12th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Ben Haslam - Themed Preaching **
Sat 18th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 19th	10.00 a.m.	Barbara Easton - Themed Preaching **
Fri 24th	3.00 p.m.	Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 25th	10.30 a.m.	Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 26th	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha - Themed Preaching **

**** Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**

The next edition of this newsletter covers December 2023 and January 2024. The deadline is Sunday 12th November 2023.



The deadline for items for the December 2023/January 2024 Newsletter will be Sunday 12th November 2023. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

Tel: 01935 826072 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com

Weekly Activities

Sunday

10.00 a.m. Morning Service and Young Church
(1st Sunday in each month is All-Age Worship)

6.30 p.m. Evening Service *(not every week)*

Monday

7.30 p.m. The Away Group meets *(Fortnightly)*

Tuesday

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday)*

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***

3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

Saturday

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

(***A*** = No meeting during school holiday)